

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims is provided below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing of claim 1~~ drive assembly according to claim 29, wherein said cover comprises a circular side wall and two opposed ends.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing~~ drive assembly of claim 2, wherein said cover is a hollow cylinder ~~having a~~ having a constant diameter.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing of claim 1~~ drive assembly according to claim 29, wherein said cover is six-inch welded stainless steel pipe.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing of claim 1~~ drive assembly according to claim 29, wherein said first support includes a first flange having a diameter greater than said the diameter cover and a shoulder having a diameter less than the diameter of said cover.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing~~ drive assembly of claim 5, wherein said second support includes a second flange having a diameter less than the diameter of said cover.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing~~ drive assembly of claim 6, wherein said second support includes a second flange having a diameter less than the diameter of said cover.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing~~ drive assembly of claim 6, wherein said first flange is made from stainless steel.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing~~ drive assembly of claim 6, further comprising a first sealing element disposed between said shoulder and said cover that seals said cover to said drive system component.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing~~ drive assembly of claim 7, further comprising a second sealing element disposed between said flange and said cover that seals said cover to said drive system component.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing~~ drive assembly of claim 10, further comprising a second sealing element disposed between said flange and said cover that seals said cover to said drive system component.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing~~ drive assembly of claim 12, wherein said first and said second sealing elements are O-rings.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing according to claim 15~~ drive assembly according to claim 31, wherein said first and said second sealing elements are O-rings.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing of claim 14~~ drive according to claim 31, wherein said cover comprises a circular side wall and two opposed ends.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~housing~~ drive assembly of claim 17, wherein said cover is a hollow cylinder ~~having a~~ having a constant diameter.

19. (Withdrawn) A mixing apparatus comprising:
a motor assembly;
a mixing vessel that contains material to be mixed;
a seal pedestal connected to said mixing vessel;
a cover supported between said motor assembly and said seal pedestal; and
a drive assembly connected between said motor and said seal pedestal and disposed within said cover.

20. (Withdrawn) The mixing apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a rotatable shaft extending from said drive assembly and into said mixing vessel.

21. (Withdrawn) The mixing apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a

sealing element that seals said cover to said drive assembly.

22. (Withdrawn) The mixing apparatus of claim 20, wherein said housing comprises a cover having a circular side wall and two opposed ends.

23. (Withdrawn) The mixing apparatus of claim 22, wherein said cover is a hollow cylinder.

24. (Withdrawn) The mixing apparatus of claim 19, wherein said drive assembly is a speed reducer.

25. (Withdrawn) A method for covering at least a portion of a drive assembly comprising:

covering at least a portion of the drive assembly with a cover; and
supporting the cover with a first support and a second support.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of sealing the cover to the drive assembly.

27. (Withdrawn) A method for sealing at least a portion of a drive assembly comprising:
covering at least a portion of the drive assembly with a cover; and
sealing the cover to the drive assembly.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A drive assembly for a mixer having a motor assembly and a seal pedestal, comprising:

a cover that extends between at least a portion of the motor assembly and at least a portion of the seal pedestal;

a speed reducer disposed within said cover;

a first support that supports said cover on the motor assembly; and

a second support that supports said cover on the seal pedestal.

30. (New) The drive assembly according to claim 29, wherein said speed reducer is a concentric speed reducer.

31. (New) A drive assembly for a mixer having a motor assembly and a seal pedestal, comprising:

a cover that extends between at least a portion of the motor assembly and at least a portion of the seal pedestal;

a speed reducer disposed within said cover;

a first seal element that seals said cover to the motor assembly; and

a second seal element that seals said cover to the seal pedestal.

32. (New) The drive assembly according to claim 29, wherein said speed reducer is a concentric speed reducer.

33. (New) A drive assembly for a mixer having a motor assembly and a seal pedestal, comprising:

means for covering the drive assembly, wherein said means for covering the drive assembly extends between at least a portion of the motor assembly and at least a portion of the seal pedestal;

means for reducing speed disposed in said means for covering;

first means for supporting the covering means on the drive assembly; and

second means for supporting the covering means on the seal pedestal.